

RCMHC TEAM

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Mental Health Court Judge

Honorable John H. Guthmann
Mental Health Court Judge

Honorable William H. Leary III
Mental Health Court Judge

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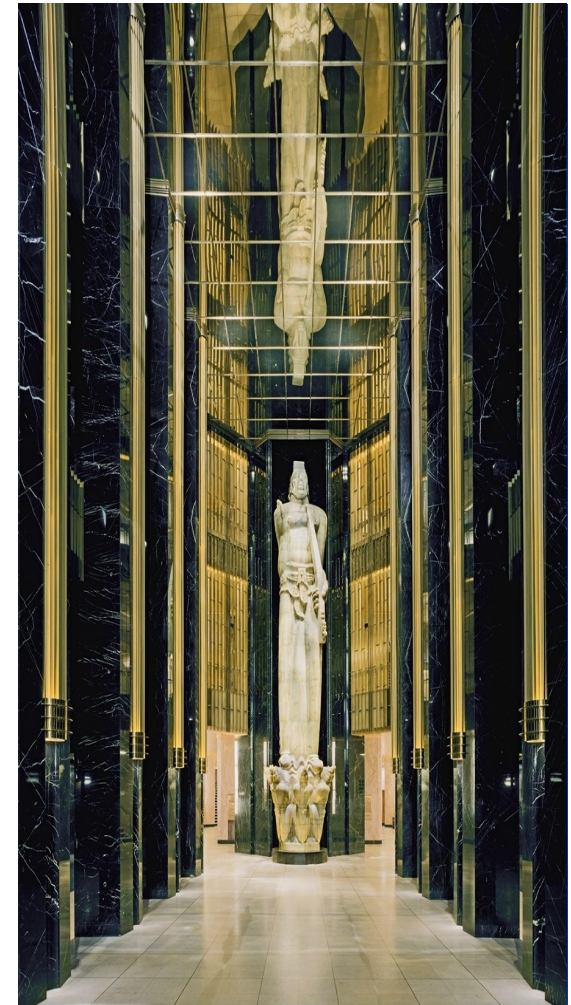
Suzula Bidon, Student Certified Attorney

*"Thanks for believing in me;
even when I was far
from believing in myself.
Thanks for not judging me
or labeling me.
Thanks for your wonderful support.
Because of Mental Health Court,
I stayed on my meds,
I kept my appointments,
I slowly came to know "me" again –
the "me" I forgot I was.
Because you believed in me,
it changed my whole world,
my children's world."
- RCMHC Graduate*

COME VISIT US!

RCMHC is held on the **first and third Tuesdays** of the month at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 840 on the eighth floor of the courthouse.

To schedule a visit, please contact:
651-266-9256



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RAMSEY COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Second Judicial District
Ramsey County Courthouse
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102

MENTAL HEALTH COURT

The Ramsey County Mental Health Court (RCMHC) has been in **operation** since May 2005. It was developed based on the national problem-solving court model.

RCMHC was created when it became increasingly clear that persons with mental illness and co-occurring substance abuse disorders were in need of more specialized and individualized jurisprudential approaches.

The program consists of intensive treatment by mental health professionals, frequent appearances before the Judge, mandatory mental health programming, regular visits with the case manager, chemical health treatment for those with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders, and random drug testing.

MISSION

The **mission** of the RCMHC is to increase public safety by reducing recidivism among those whose criminal behaviors are attributable to mental illness. Through court supervision and the coordination of mental health and other social services, the Court supports a psychiatrically stable and crime-free lifestyle among its participants.

FUNDING

The RCMHC is currently **funded** by the Minnesota Department of Human Services ("DHS"), Adult Mental Health Division. By partnering with the Minnesota DHS, the RCMHC team includes a human services case manager who links participants to available community mental and chemical health services. This approach has demonstrated results by changing lives, lowering incarceration rates and reducing recidivism.

To maintain adequate resources, the Court relies heavily on pro bono services.

ELIGIBILITY

TO BE **ELIGIBLE** FOR RCMHCAN INDIVIDUAL MUST BE:

- 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER
- RAMSEY COUNTY RESIDENT
(OUT-OF-COUNTY CONSIDERED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS)
- CHARGED WITH A CRIME
- DIAGNOSED WITH A SIGNIFICANT MENTAL ILLNESS
- LEGALLY COMPETENT
- A PERSON WITH NO HISTORY OF VIOLENT OFFENSES
- WILLING TO VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATE AND COMMIT TO THE RIGORS OF THE COURT CONDITIONS AND TREATMENT PLAN

TARGET POPULATION

The **target population** of the RCMHC is adult Ramsey County residents who have been charged with a crime that is related to a serious mental illness.

BASIC STRUCTURE

The RCMHC program is a **four-phase treatment process**, lasting a minimum of one year and a maximum of three years. Each phase consists of specific requirements for advancement into the next phase and outlines the recovery support services delivery plan. Phase movement results upon :

- ◆ Treatment goals as agreed upon in the treatment plan
- ◆ Court conditions as agreed upon at acceptance
- ◆ Specific phase requirements

REQUIREMENTS

At minimum, participants who agree to be accepted into the RCMHC program are **required** to:

- ◆ remain law abiding;
- ◆ abstain from illegal or non-prescribed drugs;
- ◆ submit to random drug and alcohol testing;
- ◆ complete community service hours;
- ◆ identify and maintain appropriate housing;
- ◆ remain compliant with all medication and psychiatric appointments;
- ◆ fully comply with mental health and chemical health treatment recommendations;
- ◆ develop and sustain a long-term treatment plan;
- ◆ participate in pro-social activities;
- ◆ become involved with mental health and community support groups;
- ◆ complete a wellness plan before graduation to identify triggers and prevent recidivism.

For additional information about RCMHC including statistics, reports, program materials, and volunteer opportunities, visit:



[HTTP://WWW.MNCOURTS.GOV/
DISTRICT/2/?PAGE=1576](http://www.mncourts.gov/district/2/?page=1576)

To contact a representative of the RCMHC program, call 651-266-9256, or email brandi.stavlo@courts.state.mn.us